

# Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board

## Survey of Private Landowners RE: Turkey and Waterfowl Hunting

March 8, 2012

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Bootstrap Solutions

Partnership --

Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board (IOGLB)

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation (IFB)



# Motivations and Background

- Outfitted Turkey & Waterfowl Working Group
  - Consensus on habitat loss to development
  - Split on whether leasing by hunting clubs and outfitters had tied up prime habitat.
  - Very clear that sportsmen feared leasing would become major problem if outfitting allowed
- IOGLB noted no factual info available; called for this survey
- First tried USDA-ID Ag Stats Service, but no capacity right now to do a state survey



# Methods

Fall 2011

Find Areas for Waterfowl and Turkey Hunting.

- Turkey distribution map, and
- "Irrigated" agriculture, which is
  - Within 10 miles of – rivers, lakes, reservoirs
  - Within 10 miles of – USFWS Refuges, IDFG WMAs
  - Any in Bannock and Franklin counties

Use GIS to map distribution, convert to Zip Codes

Farm Bureau selects landowners, with 100+ acres

- Properties insured with IFB
- IFB printed and mailed; IOGLB paid postage



## Methods

Questionnaire – 4 pages, 25 questions, after many drafts

Sent 4000 questionnaires -- 11/14/2011

Sent 4000 reminder postcards -- 12/12/2011

Online Survey -- Survey Monkey software

Kept respondents anonymous

- No list of who received \*

- Did not track who responded, where they live

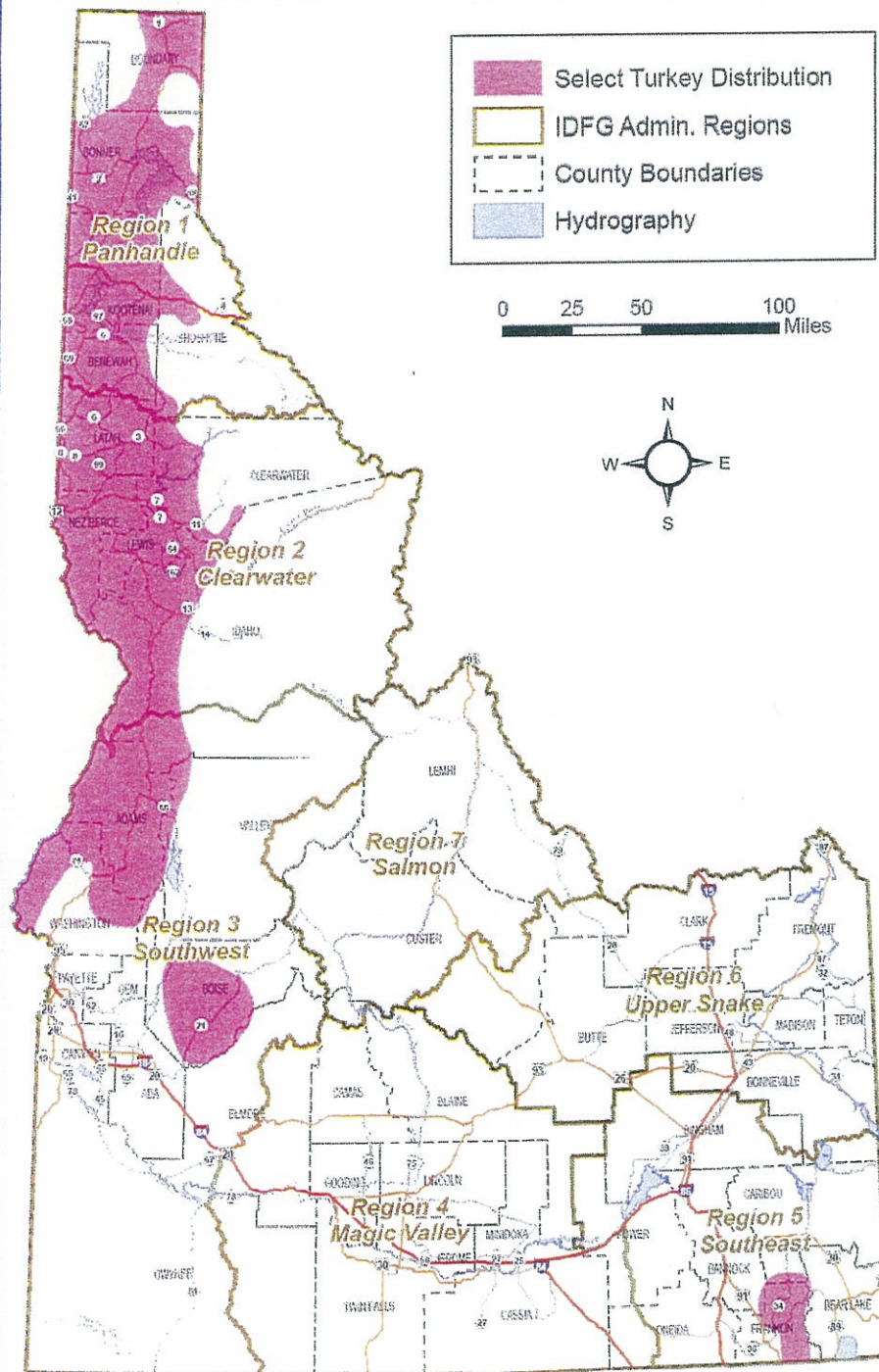
IDFG entered data received by 1/11/2012

Hardcopy	1,085 responses
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<u>Online</u>	<u>94</u>
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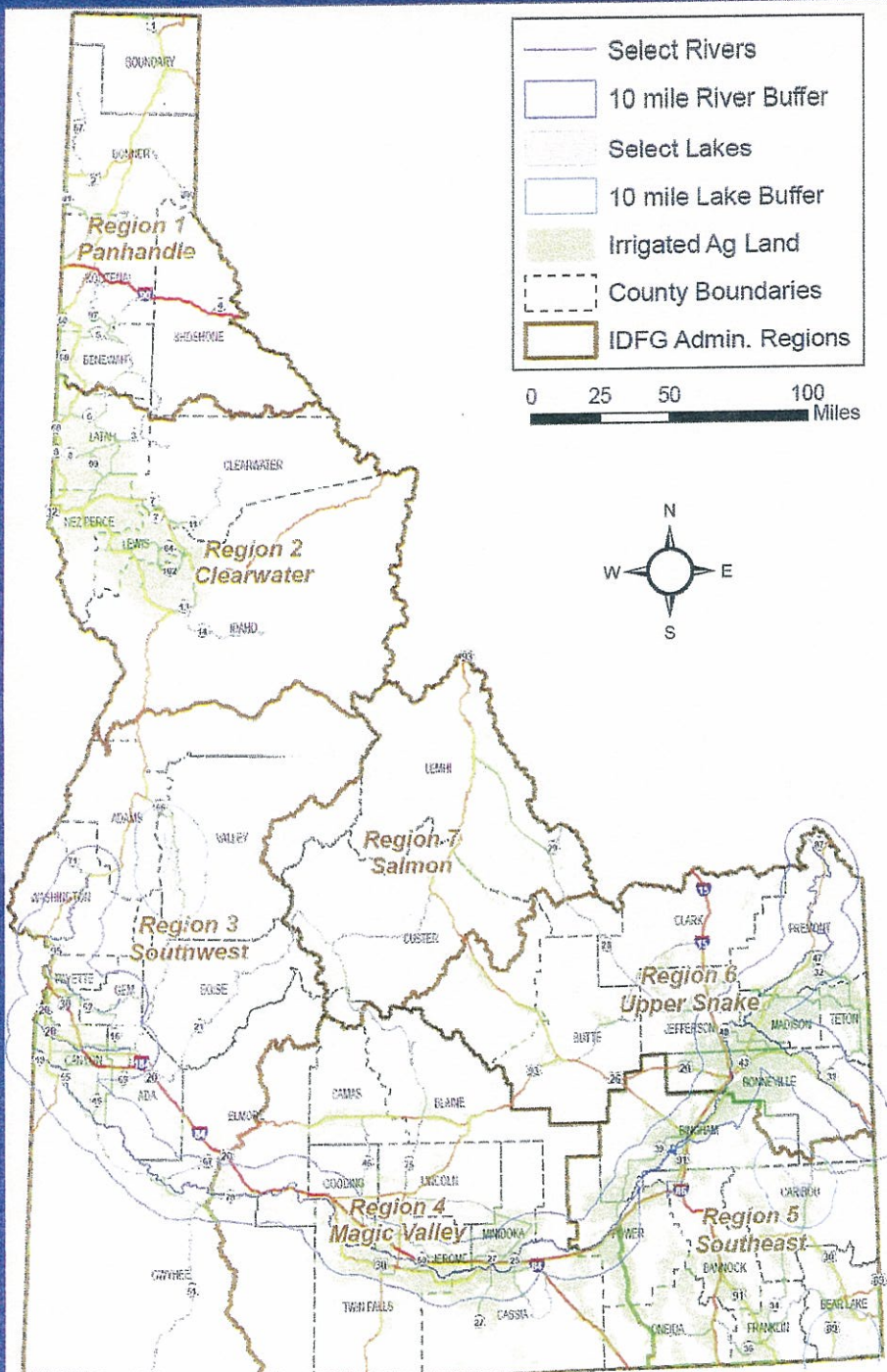
Total	1,179 (29.5% return rate)
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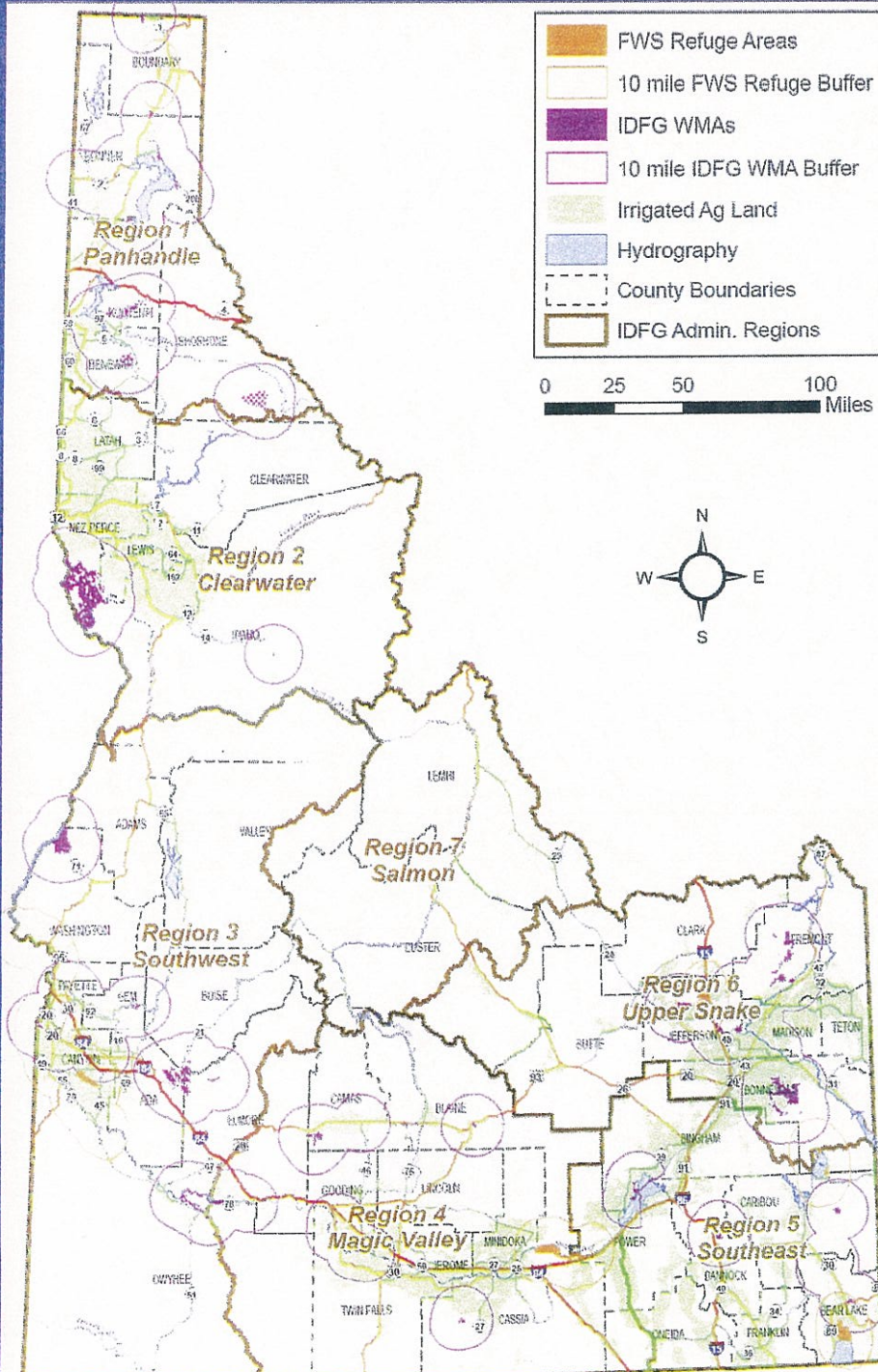
# Prime Turkey Habitat





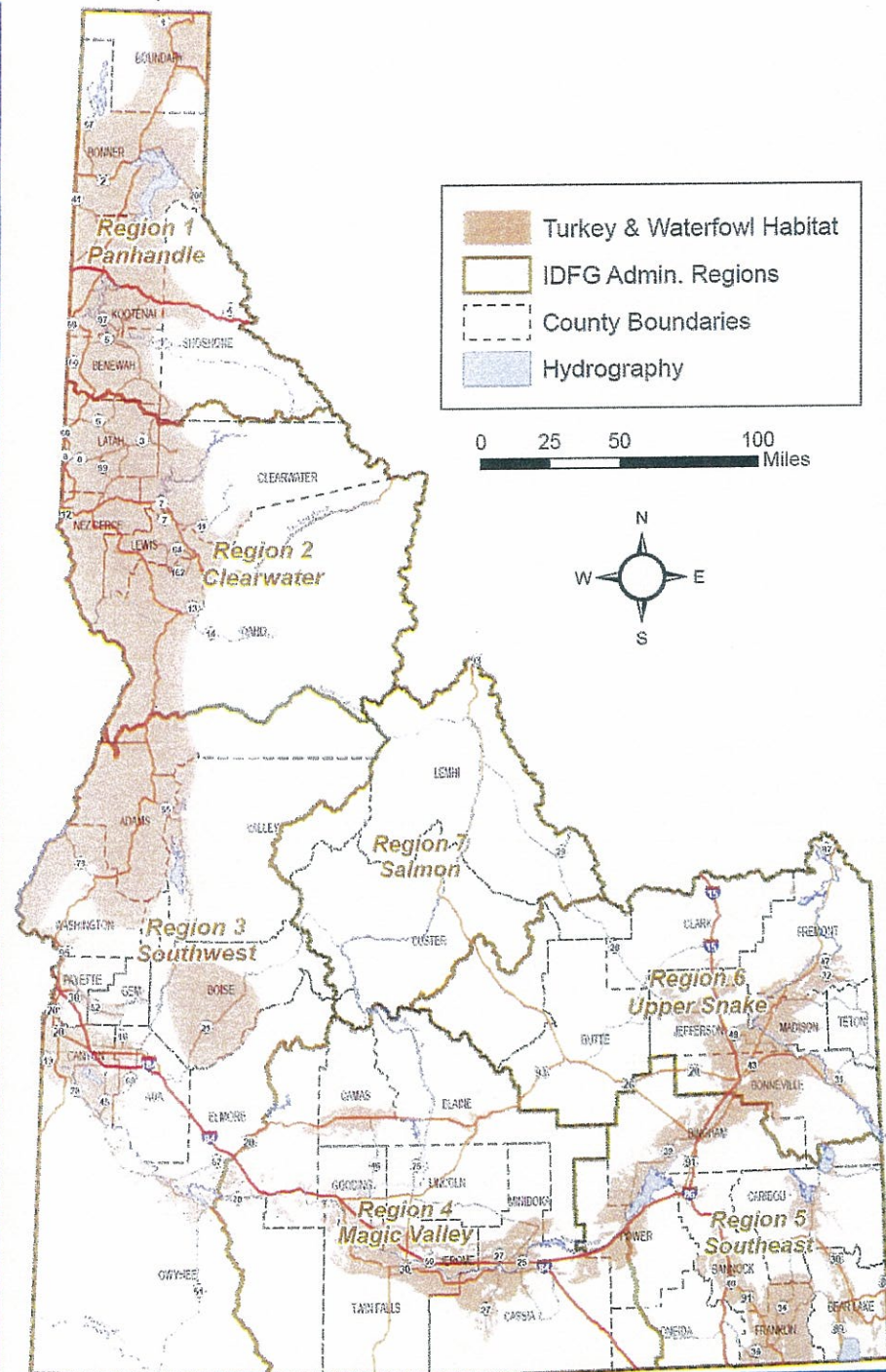
Cropland within  
10 miles of  
selected water  
features, i.e.  
reservoirs, lakes,  
major rivers





Cropland within 10  
miles of FWS refuges  
& IDFG wildlife  
management areas





Selected Farm Bureau members by zip code within these areas, who owned or managed 100 acres or more



## Results

Q 1. In what counties in Idaho do you own land?  
(Check all that apply)

Q 2. How many acres do you own in total?

Reported 1 to 117,028 acres (N=37 missing)

Median = 300 acres (N=59 <100 acres)

Average = 936 acres

# Acres	COUNT	Col %
Blank	37	3
1 -- 99	59	5
100 -- 200	354	30
201 -- 500	345	29
501 -- 1,000	200	17
1,001 -- 5,000	163	14
5,001 -- 10,000	12	1
10,001 -- 117,028	9	1
Total	1,179	100



# Results

Q 2. How many acres do you own in total?

Q 3. Do you allow hunting on your property?

Yes 72%, No 26%, Blank 1%

Q2		Q3	
#Acres	Total	#Yes	%Yes
Blank	37	19	51
1 -- 99	59	36	61
100 -- 200	354	238	67
201 -- 500	345	246	71
501 -- 1,000	200	156	78
1,001 -- 5,000	163	143	88
5,001 -- 10,000	12	10	83
10,001 -- 117,028	9	6	67
Total	1,179	854	72

Larger properties are more likely to allow hunting and fishing.



# Results

Q 4. If answer to Question 3 is Yes,  
how much huntable land do you own?

# Acres	COUNT	Column %
<100 acres	170	14.4
101 to 200	233	19.8
201 to 500	223	18.9
501 to 1000	120	10.2
1000+ acres	111	9.4
None of my land is huntable (gun safety or suitable habitat)	53	4.5
Total	910	77.2



## Results

Q 5. Do you allow access for (Check all that apply)

N= 997 of 1179 Responded	COUNT	Column %
A. You and your family to hunt or fish	730	61.9
B. Friends to hunt or fish	643	54.5
C. Any hunter who asks permission.	550	46.6
D. Only hunters who pay access fees.	23	2.0
E. Anyone asking permission for other forms of recreation such as fishing, hiking, or riding.	152	12.9
F. Anyone who pays access fees for other forms of recreation such as fishing, hiking, or riding.	7	0.6
Blank (no access)	182	15.4
Total	2,105	179

Majority of landowners are pro-hunting.  
Some landowners limit to family and/or friends.



# Results

Q 6. Do you lease out any of the land you own to an individual or organization to use for hunting or other private recreational purposes?

-- Yes 2.9%, No 95.0%, Blank 2.1%

Q2		Q6	
#Acres	Total	#Yes	%Yes
Blank	37	1	2.7
1 -- 99	59	1	1.7
100 -- 200	354	4	1.1
201 -- 500	345	7	2.0
501 -- 1,000	200	3	1.5
1,001 -- 5,000	163	12	7.4
5,001 -- 10,000	12	2	16.7
10,001 -- 117,028	9	4	44.4
Total	1,179	34	2.9

Larger properties are more likely to lease or charge for hunting, etc.  
There are economies of scale to leasing in terms of income, and problems avoided.



Q 7. If you do not lease your land to others and do not charge access fees, why not? (N=863)

### **Allow Hunting – 326 or 38%**

- It's traditional for my family to allow hunting with permission; want to encourage hunting; be a good neighbor; pay back for hunting opportunities that I had – 119
- Don't believe in charging for hunting – 106
- Wildlife is a public resource; we don't own the wildlife – 9
- Only myself, family, and friends are allowed to hunt – 77
- Don't need the income from hunting leases or fees – 15

### **Not Allow Hunting – 323 or 37%**

- Not the right kind of land to lease; no game to hunt – 81
- Perceived risk to livestock– 65
- Property too small or too close to houses– 51
- Bad experiences, damages, dead livestock, irresponsible hunters – 50
- Don't want strangers on our property; control access – 29
- Liability concerns – 23
- Don't want hunting on property; like having as wildlife refuge – 24

### **Indeterminate – 214 or 25%**

- Never been approached about leasing – 33
- Never thought about leasing or fees; didn't know; might consider it – 31
- Hunting income not worth the hassle – 65
- Other Answer - 85



## Results

Q 8. If you do not lease your land to others for hunting and do not charge access fees, is your land:

(Check only one)

N= 1008 of 1179 Responded	COUNT	Column %
A. Posted against trespassing, with no hunting allowed?	145	12.9
B. Posted against trespassing, with hunting only for family and friends?	146	13.0
C. Posted against trespassing, with hunting only by permission?	208	18.6
D. Not Posted against trespassing?	493	44.0
E. Other (please describe)	95	8.5
Blank	113	10.1
Total	1,087	100.0

Note that tilled land is protected from trespass by state law automatically.



# Q8 Results by IDFG Region

	Q1		Q8					
Region	County Number	County Name	Total	8A	8B	8C	8D	8E
				1	2	3	4	5
		TOTAL	1345	174	183	258	591	112
1		SUBTOTAL	92	23	13	19	28	7
2		SUBTOTAL	158	26	27	39	57	15
3M		SUBTOTAL	62	16	10	13	20	6
3B		SUBTOTAL	192	27	27	46	69	13
4		SUBTOTAL	268	24	22	46	151	23
5		SUBTOTAL	329	27	62	74	134	28
6		SUBTOTAL	235	28	20	20	129	19
7		SUBTOTAL	9	3	2	1	3	1



## Results

Q 9. How long have you been leasing your land, or charging access fees, for recreation? (years)

N= 33 of 34 Responded

Reported 1 to 30 years

Median = 7 years, average = 8.9 years



# Results

Q 10. Is the person or group that leases your land:  
(Check only one)

N= 32 of 34 Responded	COUNT	Column %
A. An individual hunter or group of hunters?	17	50.0
B. A membership organization primarily for hunting, such as a hunting club?	3	8.8
C. Another type of non-profit organization?	1	2.9
D. An outfitter or guide service?	4	11.8
E. Another type of business or corporation?	0	0.0
F. A state agency, such as ID Fish and Game's "Access Yes" program?	6	17.6
G. Other? (please describe)	4	11.8
Blank	2	5.9

Note more answered Access Yes than outfitter or hunting club.  
Moratorium is one reason for low outfitter response.



## Results

Q 11. Would any of the deeded land that you lease to others provide access to adjoining: (Check all that apply)

N=19 of 34 Responded	COUNT	Column %
A. Lakes or reservoirs?	3	8.8
B. River or major streams?	7	20.6
C. State owned land?	11	32.4
D. Federally owned land?	14	41.2
Blank (does not access these locations)	15	44.1

A significant factor for leasing may be the access it provides to public lands or huntable waters.



## Results

Q 12. What recreational activities does your leasee engage in on your land? (Check all that apply)

N=33 of 34 Responded	COUNT	Column %
A. Hunting	28	82.4
B. Fishing	6	17.6
C. Hiking and/or general nature appreciation	5	14.7
D. Motorized recreation (motorcycle, ATV, OHV)	4	11.8
E. Camping overnight	8	23.5
F. Other (Please describe)	3	8.8
Blank (no activities)	1	2.9

Vast majority of responses are for hunting.



## Results

Q 13. If hunting is a leased activity, what species are being hunted? (Check all that apply)

N=28 of 34 Responded	COUNT	Column %
A. Elk or Deer	17	50.0
B. Bear or Cougar	5	14.7
C. Turkey	6	17.6
D. Upland Gamebirds (pheasant, grouse, chukar, or quail)	11	32.4
E. Waterfowl (ducks or geese)	10	29.4
Blank	6	17.6

Note majority of responses are for hunting big game.  
Turkey and waterfowl are a minority, despite sorting for their habitat.



## Results

Q14. If hunting is a leased activity, do you or the leasing organization provide services beyond access to your land? (Check all that apply)

N=8 of 34 Responded	COUNT	Column %
A. Blinds	1	2.9
B. Decoys	0	0.0
C. Dogs	1	2.9
D. Game retrieval	2	5.9
E. Guides	2	5.9
F. Map of property with preferred hunting locations	3	8.8
G. Meals	4	11.8
H. Lodging accommodations	3	8.8
I. Other (please describe)	1	2.9
Blank (no services provided)	26	76.5

Notice that providing A-F requires outfitters license, but frequency is less than the 4 who lease to outfitters in Q.10.



## Results

Q15. Before you leased your land to others for hunting, was your land: (Check only one)

N= 26 of 34 Responded	COUNT	Column %
A. Posted against trespassing, with no hunting allowed	4	11.8
B. Posted against trespassing, with hunting only for family and friends	7	20.6
C. Posted against trespassing, with hunting only by permission	8	23.5
D. Not posted against trespassing	6	17.6
E. Other (please describe)	3	8.8
Blank	7	20.6

for

Reported 2 to 40,000 acres, N=25, N=9 blank

Median = 700 acres, Average = 3,097 acres

Total = 84,930 acres. If non-respondents the same, Total = 115,505 acres.



## Results

Q17. What are the terms of your recreation lease?  
(Check only one)

N= 29 of 34 Responded	COUNT	Column %
A. Flat rate per season	22	64.7
B. Flat rate per acre per season	3	8.8
C. Flat rate, plus a fee per user	0	0.0
D. Don't Know	0	0.0
E. Other (please describe)	4	11.8
Blank	4	11.8

Q 18. What is the amount of your lease?

11 answered flat rate per season of \$100 to \$2,500. Ave = \$1,118  
3 used rates per acre from \$0.50 to \$20 per acre.



## Results

Q19. How important is the recreation income from this lease to the financial health of your farm, ranch, or timber land? (Check only one)

N= 31 of 34 Responded	COUNT	Column %
A. Not important	14	41.2
B. Slightly Important	9	26.5
C. Significantly Important	3	8.8
D. Very Important	4	11.8
E. Don't Know		0.0
Blank	3	8.8

1. Total recreation leasing revenues will clearly be modest.
2. Consistent with 65 answers to Q7 that income not worth the hassle.
3. Part of return to leasing is having a third party deal w hunters.



## Results

Q20. Have you had problems in the past with recreation users on your land? (Check all that apply)

N= 28 of 34 Responded	COUNT	Column %
A. No problems with recreation users	3	8.8
B. Gates left open.	18	52.9
C. Fences broken	20	58.8
D. Erosion to roads or fields from vehicles	13	38.2
E. Livestock injured or killed	13	38.2
F. Vandalism	18	52.9
G. Other (please describe)	9	26.5
Blank (no problems)	4	11.8

Only 3 of 29 had no problems.

Problem may have occurred many years in past, but affects landowner decisions.



## Results

Q21. Since you leased out your land, do you have fewer or more of the problems listed above than before you leased your land? (Check only one)

N= 31 of 34 Responded	COUNT	Column %
A. Fewer problems now	22	64.7
B. More problems now	1	2.9
C. About the same	7	20.6
Blank	3	8.8

Answers seem to confirm that leasing is a successful strategy for managing hunters and trespassers with a third party.



## Results

Q22. All in all, are you satisfied with leasing your land for recreation? (Check only one)

N= 29 of 34 Responded	COUNT	Column %
A. Very dissatisfied	4	12.1
B. Somewhat dissatisfied	1	3.0
C. Neutral or no opinion	1	3.0
D. Somewhat satisfied	7	21.2
E. Very satisfied	16	48.5
F. Don't Know	1	3.0
Blank	3	9.1

70% very or somewhat satisfied with leasing.



## Results

Q23. If you lease your land to a hunting club, do you know what fees they charge for a membership?

(Check only one ) (N=1, "\$1000-\$3000")

Q24. If you lease your land to a hunting club, do you know how many members are in this club?

(Check only one) (N=4, 1 to 12 members)

Q25. Is there anything else you would like to tell us regarding hunting and recreation on private land, or about this questionnaire? (N=191)

Wide variety of open-ended responses.



# LIMITATIONS

## Limitations:

- a) USDA Ag Stats Service has a much larger database. Farm Bureau may have only 30-40% of landowners, but likely skewed toward larger holdings.
- b) This survey targeted turkey/waterfowl prime habitat. Likely to be more leasing for big game hunting and other recreation in rest of state.
- c) This survey relied on Farm Bureau relationship w landowners for good survey response. May be a non-response bias, but we chose to keep responses anonymous.

This should not materially affect validity of following conclusions:



# TAKE-HOME MESSAGES

Leasing property for hunting is much less prevalent than many think,

--Only 3% of landowners reported leasing or charging for recreation.

--It is often stated that leasing, especially by outfitters and guides, is the cause of reduced hunting opportunities.

Responses split between --

- 1) Favoring hunting and open access to private land, and
- 2) Need to control improper hunting access on private land.

Many landowners understood why some other landowners were leasing, but chose not to themselves.



## TAKE-HOME MESSAGES, cont.

Many landowners still feel a moral obligation to allow public hunting, provided:

- The hunters ask permission and are respectful.
- The landowner does not need recreation income.

There are economies of scale to leasing for recreation.

Leasing seems to work and satisfies landowners as a means of reducing problems with recreationists.